

**HEATH'S ENGLISH
CLASSICS. THE SIR ROGER
DE COVERLEY PAPERS
FROM THE SPECTATOR**

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Heath's English Classics. The Sir Roger de Coverley Papers from the Spectator by William Henry Hudson

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WILLIAM HENRY HUDSON

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JOSEPH ADDISON.

Heath's English Classics

THE
SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY
PAPERS

FROM THE SPECTATOR

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

I

AUTHORS OF THE SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY PAPERS.

Richard Steele, who originated *The Spectator*, was born in Dublin in March, 1672. While a mere child he lost both father and mother,¹ and fell to the charge of an uncle, by whom he was sent, in 1684, to the Charterhouse School, London. Of this period of his life there is little record, though we may suspect that vivid memories of the severe punishments inflicted for bad Latin and breaches of discipline had something to do with the fine essay in which, years later, he attacked the brutality then common in the great English schools.² From the Charterhouse he went, in 1691, to Oxford, but his university career was prematurely closed by his enlistment in the Horse Guards. While still in the army, he "commenced author," as the phrase then ran, with a curious little devotional manual, *The Christian Hero*, and a satiric comedy, *The Funeral, or Grief à la Mode*. Oddly contrasted as these productions may seem to be, there is really a point of ethical contact between them. The former, as he afterwards declared, was written for his private use, "with a design principally to fix upon his own mind a strong impression of virtue and religion";³ while the latter was inspired by the moral purpose of making "virtue and

¹ See his touching paper on his father's death. *Tatler*, No. 181.

² *Spectator*, No. 157.

³ Mr. Steele's *Apology for Himself and His Writings*, 1714.